

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

March 6, 2014  
2:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Diane Albanese, Joanne Christian, Stephanie DeWitt, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Rosaria Macera, Byron Murphy, Mary Pinkston, Whitney Price, JoAnn Reynolds and Stephanie Smith

**Members Absent:** Michael Casson, Wendy Murray and Jacqueline Wisnauskas

**Others Present:** Donna Mitchell, PSB Executive Director; Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General; Kimberly Rodriguez, Secretary to PSB; Donna Johnson, State Board of Education; Debora Hansen, DOE Curriculum Instruction & Professional Development Workgroup

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Mr. Kenton, Professional Standards Board, Chair, called the meeting to Order at 2:06 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Albanese and seconded by Ms. Dewitt to approve the March 6, 2014 Agenda. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the minutes with a change moving Christy Greaves from absent to present and seconded by Ms. Greaves to approve the minutes of February 6, 2014. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Kenton gave an update that Samtra Devard, Board Member representing Parents, submitted a letter of resignation to the Governor's office; and shared that the resignation was accepted.

### II. Public Comment

➤ None

### III. Executive Director's Report

- 1517 Paraeducator Permit, Final Order appears in the current Register of Regulations, making it effective March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- License and Certification Criteria/Professional Development and Associated Compensation was cancelled for snow and rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

- ETS, responding to the state's request to add testing windows for the Examination of General Knowledge, Core Academic Skill, has now increased the number of testing windows to 12.
- Standard Setting for Praxis II – Early childhood –Education of Young Children Test at a Glance Advanced Copy has been sent to DE and now we wait for the reports.
- Executive Director provided a list of internal and external meetings or workshops attended over the month.
- The Professional Standards Board Budget is low due to unanticipated costs. The Executive Director has submitted a request for increase to cover costs and will continue to work with the department.
- Shared the examination review sessions set for Early Childhood and Gifted and Talented set for this month.
- Shared with the Board the recent announcement by College Board to change the SAT . There are 8 changes. The writing component is going to be optional. The report indicated that states and districts may list the writing portion as optional. They are going back to a 1600 score, which will require possible amendments to Regulation 1510 in 2016 when the new assessment is rolled out.
- Executive Director shared with the Board that four request for hearings have been received by the PSB and a Hearing Officer has been contracted to hear those appeals. Legal counsel shared with the Board the procedures for Revocation Hearings and indicated that the process is located in their orientation materials and although there hasn't been a hearing in some time, the procedures remain the same.

#### **IV. DOE Report**

Special Guest, Ms. Hansen provided some reports relating to Gifted and Talented and Dance.

- Gifted and Talented –AGifted & Talented Task Force was established and in May of 2013, the Gifted & Talented Task Force published their report with recommendations. A survey was conducted to clearly define the programs across the State. Work has continued in the legislative sessions. There were 6 recommendations submitted. Ms. Hansen is bringing the 6<sup>th</sup> one to the PSB which has to do with the certification of teachers of Gifted & Talented students. Ms. Hansen shares that the recommendation seeks the Professional Standards Board to support amending the regulation to strengthen the certification requirements and to possibly add the PRAXIS II test for Gifted & Talented, affording a demonstration of skills and knowledge to teach this category of students.
- Ms. Hansen entertained questions and discussion with the Board members around identification of students who are gifted and talented as well as approval of LEA gifted and talented programs. Much of the discussion centered on other recommendations in the report.

#### **Certification of teachers with dance**

Special guest, Ms. Hansen gave reference to the Certification of teachers with dance and commented that Delaware has a certification for teachers of all four disciplines of arts since 2008 when theater and arts were added to our certification.

- The State Education Agency Directors supported the National Dance Educator's Organization in a partnership and submitted a grant to the National Endowment for the Arts and received funding to begin to develop an instrument for assessing the readiness for dance educators to go into the classroom. This is independent of the PRAXIS. This is in process and will begin to get psychometric information by summer.

The Executive Director commented that the Board needs to amend this regulation for certification. The last amendment was in 2008 and would like to bring forward as soon as the assessment is approved and recommended. Need to take into account the educator who has the dance experience decides to teach but doesn't have the pedagogy. We are asking for 15 credits in dance. The amendment will include the credits. When the test becomes available it will be treated as any other content readiness assessment and will first go to License & Certification Criteria Committee then comes to the PSB.

Ms. Hansen commented that this assessment has not been embraced by the Educational Testing Service because there are so few dance educators. It is not economically feasible for ETS to take this up. That is why the National Dance Association wanted to give an alternative route to the teachers.

## V. Discussion

### A. 1510 – Issuance of Initial License (Overview & Introduction)

- (Tiered Licensure – Initial (Provisional), Continuing & Advanced)  
The Executive Director commented that the discussions that are needed around certification and what is needed for an educator to get from point A to B is complex. It is expected that an amended 1510 would provide a clearer understanding of what it takes to get licensed. In Delaware you cannot get a license without a certificate, and a certificate cannot be issued without a license. 1505 defines certification for every educator, however in implementation, many often forget to consult the Standard Certificate Regulation 1505.

The other challenge is the various categories of people who are licensed and certified in Delaware as educators but are not teachers, nor administrators. When taking on the challenge of addressing all categories of educators, a cumbersome regulation results. State Code affords some of these educators with atypical processes and timelines for licensure and certification.

- A comment was made referencing approved alternatives to student teaching for specialist educators. The response referenced the fact that these specialists are specifically mentioned in SB51.
- The Board discussed the proposed amendments needed to further align to Senate Bill 51 licensure and certification language and code. Legal Counsel shared the two timelines listed in SB 51, July 2014 for all changes other than assessment timeline, which is July, 2015.
- There was a question from the Board around immorality. Legal Counsel provided clarification.

## VI. Action Items

**A. Foreign Language 1565 World Language Teacher**

**a. Chinese Mandarin 5665 Cut Score 164**

The Executive Director commented there are four assessments. Two are new; for specific languages for World Language Teacher Certification. French, German, Spanish, are currently offered. The cut scores recommended for Chinese Mandarin test 5665 are with a cut scores are 164. The examination assessing the educator's content readiness to teach Chinese Mandarin. The recommend cut score proposed is 164. The teachers also need to demonstrate proficiencies in oral and written English. ACTFL is the test required in the regulation to demonstrate proficiency.

Legal Counsel reviewed the application of the regulation .

Ms. Mitchell commented that teachers will be required to take the ACTFL and the course count for current immersion programs.

- Questions were asked if the test will be required in every language.
- Ms. Mitchell commented that if it becomes economically feasible, they may require it.
- Ms. Mitchell commented that if the person has been given an emergency certificate. The department will be able to honor it until the expiration date.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adopt the Chinese Mandarin Test 5665 with a cut score of 154 effective July 1, 2014; motion was seconded by Ms. Greaves. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**b. Latin (Paper only at this point) 0601 Cut score 152**

The Executive Director advised that the Latin is currently a paper/pencil test. Ms. Christian made a motion to adopt the Latin Test 0601 with a cut score of 152 effective July 1, 2014; motion was seconded by Mr. Kohn. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**B. Regenerated Exams – New Cut Scores & /or Exam Questions**

**a. Agriscience 5701 – Cut Score 147**

Ms. Mitchell advised that Mr. Mauville from Everett Meredith Middle School and Mr. Breeding from W.T. Chipman Middle School attended the Standard Setting for this content readiness exam. The multistate report recommended a cut score of 147. The States are in the process of adopting the test. This is a regenerated test that replaces paper pencil 0700. The expected release date is July 2014.

Ms. Graves Motioned to adopt the new regenerated exam Agriscience 5701 to replace Agriculture (0700) required for 1550 AgriScience Teacher – Standard Certificate with the cut score of 147 with an effective date of upon release by ETS which is anticipated to be July 2014; motion was seconded by Ms. Ms. Pinkston. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

- b. Ms. Mitchell advised that more information was still forthcoming for the the proposed change of the Family & Consumer Science 5122 cut score 153 and suggested that the item be tabled. A motion to table Family & Consumer Science 5122 to the next meeting by Ms. Dewitt and seconded by Ms.

Reynolds. **The motion carried to move 5122 to the April meeting by unanimous vote.**

**VII. PSB Standing Committee**

**A. None**

**VIII. Other**

➤ **None**

**IX. Public Comment**

➤ **None**

**X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Ms. Albanese to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m.. **The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned.**